

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

(A) an internal combustion engine; and

(B) an exhaust gas purifying catalyst provided in an exhaust passageway of said internal combustion engine,

said exhaust gas purifying catalyst including:

(a) a box body formed with an exhaust gas inlet and an exhaust gas outlet;

(b) a catalyst support incorporated into said box body; and

(c) a catalyst substance supported on said catalyst support, said catalyst substance forming a region through which exhaust gas passes from a front face at said exhaust gas inlet to a rear face at said exhaust gas outlet; and

(d) a low resistance region within the catalyst substance extending from part of said front face through the catalyst substance to part of said rear face,

~~wherein a part of said catalyst support of said exhaust gas purifying catalyst is a low resistance area formed so that region provides a lower gas flow resistance is lower than in other areas said catalyst substance, and said low resistance region is disposed in such a position that within said catalyst substance to produce a higher flow velocity of the exhaust gas flowing to than through said catalyst support is high substance,~~

~~said low resistance area is a portion of said catalyst support in which the gas flow resistance is set lower than said catalyst substance by forming region includes a notched portion in said catalyst support that is recessed from a said front face of said catalyst substance, and~~

~~said notched portion is formed in a part of an exhaust gas inflow sided end surface of said catalyst support extends from said front face to a position between said front and rear faces.~~

2. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

(A) an internal combustion engine; and

(B) an exhaust gas purifying catalyst provided in an exhaust passageway of said internal combustion engine,

said exhaust gas purifying catalyst including:

(a) a box body formed with an exhaust gas inlet and an exhaust gas outlet;

(b) a catalyst support incorporated into said box body; ~~and~~

(c) a catalyst substance supported on said catalyst support, said catalyst substance forming a region through which exhaust gas passes from a front face at said exhaust gas inlet to a rear face at said exhaust gas outlet; and

(d) a low resistance region within the catalyst substance extending from part of said front face through the catalyst substance to part of said rear face,

~~wherein a part of said catalyst support of said exhaust gas purifying catalyst is a low resistance area formed so that region provides a lower gas flow resistance is lower than in other areas~~ said catalyst substance and said low resistance region is disposed in such a position that within said catalyst substance to produce a higher flow velocity of the exhaust gas flowing to than through said catalyst support is high substance,

~~said low resistance area is a portion of said catalyst support in which the gas flow resistance is set lower than said catalyst substance by forming region includes a notched portion in said catalyst support that is recessed from a said front face of said catalyst substance, and~~

~~said notched portion is formed in a part of an exhaust gas outflow sided end surface of said catalyst support~~ extends from said front face to a position between said front and rear faces such that said notched portion and said low resistance region form a flat interface.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein a portion, disposed more downstream in the exhaust gas flow direction than said notched portion, of said catalyst support supports a larger quantity of catalyst substance than in other portions.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein a portion, disposed more upstream in the exhaust gas flow direction than said notched portion, of said catalyst support supports a larger quantity of catalyst substance than in other portions.

7. (Previously Presented) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of notched portions are formed.

8. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein said notched portion takes ~~an~~ an annular shape.

9. (Previously Presented) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein said notched portion includes an exhaust gas guide passageway inclined.

10. (Original) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 9, wherein said notched portion takes a conical shape.